

The Pope's visit offers all Americans, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, a chance to reflect on the great issues of the day, including the sanctity of life, threats to the family, religious freedom, economic justice, care for the less fortunate, war and peace, and stewardship of the Earth.

Pope Francis' visit is an invitation to dialogue, and I look forward to his address.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this week, one of the largest employers in my district, General Electric, announced it would be cutting hundreds of jobs nationwide due to Congress'—due to the leadership in this House—inability to renew the Export-Import Bank.

This politics over people and Republican dysfunction has plagued this body since the GOP won the majority. It has led to a government shutdown, obsession with blocking the President at every turn, and now a loss of hundreds of jobs in my district, Schenectady, New York.

The blame game is played all too often in Washington and at the desks of cable news pundits.

This, however, is a fact: hundreds of jobs in my district are gone because Republican House leadership decided it was more important to appease the extreme conservative flank of their own party than to renew an agency that creates jobs while cutting the deficit.

As the Albany Times-Union accurately phrased it: "This is the price tag of a Congress ruled by drown-government-in-the-bathtub ideologues who have no regard for facts: 500 American jobs bound for France, Hungary, and China."

I invite anyone in this body to visit Schenectady, New York. There, they will find families that work hard and play by the rules and don't expect a handout. In this case, a dysfunctional Congress shut down a program that lost families in my district their jobs. That is morally reprehensible and completely unacceptable.

Let's do our job and not have other people lose their job because of inaction in this House.

FEDERAL AGENCIES NEED MORE OVERSIGHT

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a duty to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and responsibly. However, too often, we have seen Federal agencies that have acted in a way that waste taxpayer money by holding excessive conferences with extravagant gifts, luxuries, and perks.

We all remember the lavish Las Vegas GSA conference that cost \$823,000 for 300 employees, including tens of thousands of dollars spent on gifts. The IRS spent a whopping \$50 million—taxpayer dollars—on conferences alone during a 3-year period.

These agencies need more accountability. That is why my colleague, RON KIND, and I have introduced the bipartisan TRACE Act. This legislation simply requires the head of a Federal agency who is hosting a conference to submit a summary of that event to Congress for review.

This initiative will hold agencies accountable. It will improve oversight and transparency. It will save hard-earned taxpayer money, and it will create a more efficient and effective government.

STANDING UP FOR AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a great history, and I would ask the question: What would Franklin Delano Roosevelt do, President Eisenhower, or Ronald Reagan, or John F. Kennedy, when a question from someone in the room attacked and presented a negative attitude about Muslims or Catholics or those in the Jewish faith or Protestant?

Well, it happened in a townhall meeting of a Presidential candidate. This person thought that they were maligning and deriding the President of the United States when they called him Muslim and that he was not a citizen; yet no voice rang out in this townhall meeting to oppose that heinous and horrific attitude toward individuals of the Muslim faith, who actually have fought on behalf of the flag of the United States of America. We malign no people for a general issue that all of us know we are all against, the world family is against.

Now, I ask this Congress to likewise fund this government because the last time, when the Republicans shut the government down in 2013, we lost \$24 billion.

Because you are denying women health care, you now want to defund the government and, at the same time, keep jobs away from the American people by not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank.

Not only were 300 jobs lost, but 400 jobs may be lost by a businessman in Kenya who was waiting for the Export-Import Bank. He is an American, and he had 400 jobs.

I say, Mr. Speaker, stop the foolishness. Act like the history of this Nation, and stand up for what is right.

GIVE AMERICA THE SAME DEAL IRAN GETS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, under the President's nuclear deal, the United States agreed to give the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism a billion-dollar oil boom. The United States will allow Iran to export its crude oil, but ironically, it still bans exports of our crude oil.

The administration has the power to lift the American ban on crude oil exports, but the White House seems to be more worried about playing the Chamberlain and appeasing Iran than helping the United States economy.

The United States is the largest crude oil producer in the world. There is a world demand for this oil, but the White House will not allow exports, so the oil stays stagnant in the ground.

This ban is one factor that has led to 70,000 jobs being lost in the energy sector in America. Exporting U.S. crude oil will lower gas prices, create jobs, and increase our influence worldwide.

If the President won't act, Congress must. It is time to stop putting the interests of the mullahs and the haters of the United States above Americans citizens. Export American oil.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1315

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CRESCENTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR ROTC PROGRAM

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Crescenta Valley High School Air Force Junior ROTC.

Under the distinguished leadership of Lieutenant Colonel David Worley, the Crescenta Valley Air Force JROTC is a well-respected and integral part of the foothills communities.

The cadets who participate in this program truly learn the value of community service and personal responsibility. It is a tremendous opportunity for young men and women to embrace the core values of "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do."

The cadets from the program are among the most impressive young people I have had the privilege to meet. We are so fortunate to have a program in our community that provides a structured, vibrant environment to develop future leaders.

I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Worley and all the participants at Crescenta Valley High School. I am confident there is no program anywhere in the Nation that is a better representative of the Air Force JROTC. I speak for all my constituents when I say, Job well done.

IF YOU WANT TO DESTROY ISIS, YOU MUST DESTROY BASHAR AL-ASSAD

(Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address